

Approved For Release 2006/02/06 : CIA-RDP82-00457R0007000470009-8

# INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

**CONFIDENTIAL**

DATE DISTR. 9 MAR 51

SUBJECT Hungarian Tractor Stations

NO. OF PAGES 2

25X1

PLACE  
ACQUIRED

**Document No. 7**

NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE OF INFO.

**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

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2. Motorization of Hungarian agricultural economy has always been difficult. Prior to World War II, Hungary had about 7,000 tractors for an area of approximately 60,000 square kilometers of cultivated land. This number was increased to about 10,000 by the fall of 1944. During the final stages of the war, approximately 40 percent of this number were lost or requisitioned. The remaining 6,000 tractors were old models. All better tractors had been confiscated by the Russians.
3. During the first Three-Year Plan, the building of tractors was given a priority. In the course of standardization of industrial products, tractor building was concentrated at the Hofherr-Schramm-Clayton-Shuttleworth Factory; the necessary technical equipment was taken from the Manfred Weiss Factory and the Land Factory. The former Hofherr Factory now builds a medium-size tractor. It allegedly plans to produce a light tractor during the present Five-Year Plan.\*
4. The situation of the small peasants (whose holdings were created by the Agrarian Reform and are of 3 to 5 hectares in size) is very serious because of the lack of cattle and horses. The Communist government has used the lack of draft animals to enforce the kolkhoz system. By the offer of tractor support to small peasants, they were forced into kolkhozes. The state-owned tractors were soon organized in the "Allami mezgazdasági szövetek". This organization is directly supervised by the Hungarian Ministry for Agriculture. The central office of this organization is situated in Budapest, sub-offices have been installed in the capital of every province. These provincial sub-offices directly supervise the tractor stations. The tractor stations offer a 30 percent rebate and priority to kolkhozes as compared with privately-owned land.
5. As a rule, a tractor station consists of the following machines:

10 tractors	12 normal harrows
5 tractor harrows	12 sowing machines
10 tractor ploughs	25-30 horse-drawn ploughs
2 threshing machines	1 auxiliary tractor with trailer
2 collectors	for repairs

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also chaff-cutting machines, forage cutters, etc.

Each tractor station has further a complete repair kit for tractors.

6. On 1 August 1947, the first tractor stations were installed; by 31 December 1947, 120 existed. On 13 May 1950, the 300th tractor station was installed, at Lovasbony. In July 1950, a general repair works was installed in the province of Pest. Further similar installations will follow in the other provinces. The wear and tear is extraordinarily great because of bad servicing, forced labor, and incessant "competitions".
7. The widely publicized "help by the Soviet Union" consisted of a shipment of approximately 250 large tractors and a few combines. From 1946 through 1948, there was an increase of 2,000 tractors; and during 1949 an increase of 1,958 tractor ploughs, 245 thrashers, 217 selectors, 455 fertilizer spreaders. The over-all figure, by 1 January 1950, was estimated at 10,000 tractors in Hungary. Of these, 6,000 are handled by the state-owned tractor stations; the rest are mainly controlled by government-owned estates (sovkhoses). The few privately-owned tractors are being confiscated and sent to the tractor stations.
8. According to official figures from the Ministry of Agriculture as of 1 January 1950, the tractors are distributed to the provinces as follows:

I	Pest	550
II	Komaron	200
III	Fejér	500
IV	Nógrád	250
V	Győr-Sopron	500
VI	Vas	340
VII	Veszprém	300
VIII	Zala	170
IX	Somogy	550
X	Baranya	420
XI	Tolna	530
XII	Bács-Kiskun	600
XIII	Csongrád-Csanád	900
XIV	Békés	500
XV	Szolnok	750
XVI	Hajdu-Bihar	290
XVII	Szabolcs	550
XVIII	Heves	400
XIX	Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén	670
		<hr/>
		8,970 Total

9. The present output of tractors in Hungary per year is estimated at 3,000. Considering an increase of 2,000 tractors during 1949, and an alleged export of 400 to 500 tractors to Rumania and Bulgaria during that year, it can be assumed that 500 to 600 tractors were put out of use. It is an established fact that only irreparable machines are being set aside in Hungary nowadays. At the end of the present five-year plan, 20,000 tractors are planned to be used.
10. A secret instruction from the Ministry of Agriculture, distributed in August 1947, stated: "With the help of tractor stations, an economic and political foundation must be created on which the basis of socialized large estates will be built. The tractor station by its mechanical equipment, by supporting the production communities under construction, by expert management, and by material advantages must demonstrate to the peasants that the kolkhoz is of greater advantage than private enterprise on small estates. The Communist chief ideologist Rózy repeatedly stated: "We defend private ownership of the peasants, and are not trying to force the Hungarian peasants into kolkhozes."

25X1   Comment: The present Hungarian standard tractor has approximately 34 horsepower.

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